



LOCUST AND THE OAK.

Once upon a time there was a tiny acorn lying in the soft earth in a forest. Just a tiny, yellow acorn that no one would ever notice, that the wind blew off the branch when it shook the tree.

Plop! It fell down on the sod and there it lay buried under the leaves with the snow above it for a covering during the long winter. Then at last spring came, the sun came out brightly and the ground felt warm as the little acorn nestled down in the roots of the grass. The gentle rains dripped down on it till it grew soft and swelled and swelled and swelled till at last it burst and a wee shoot of green peeped up through the soil.

"How beautiful everything is!" whispered the little acorn. "So green and the sky so blue! How lovely, how lovely!"

Just above the tiny acorn shoot was a tree full of big, white blossoms. They hung in great clusters of fleecy foam, the petals like snowflakes, and the sweetness from their perfume made the air as a rose garden. It was a locust tree in full bloom.

"You say everything is beautiful!" said the locust tree. "That is true, but I am the most beautiful of all. See my great bunches of feathery blossoms with their delicious odor."

The tiny little shoot looked meekly up at the big locust—yes, it was a magnificent tree.

"I am the sweetest and prettiest tree in the woods," continued the proud locust. "And pray, what use are you in the world?"

The little shoot hung its head. What could it do? Would it ever grow into a big, strong, pretty tree? It did not know. Still it thought it would do its best and that was all one could do.

"I am very small," it said, "and I do not yet know about what I will be able to do. But whatever I do, my duty that I will do to the best of my power."

So the tiny shoot grew and grew. The sun warmed it, the rain made the earth soft and the wind tossed it about to give it exercise. It wintered it kept still, but every spring it would begin to climb, and at last it was quite a big tree.

"I see you are going to be something after all," said the locust, jealously. "But you will never get to look as pretty or be of use in the world like me."

"Maybe not," sang out the young oak for it was now an oak—but I am going to do my best as long as I grow."

So it kept on growing. The trunk went up straight, the bark got thick, the branches reached out wide and were covered with handsome leaves. The birds and squirrels seemed to love the friendly tree and made their homes in its shade.

But the locust did not grow. It was getting old and its scraggy limbs broke off and littered the ground. One day the farmer came into the woods with an ax.

"This old locust never was any good," he exclaimed. "All it did was to have a few blossoms and then there was a lot of dead limbs dropping all about. It was just a silly thing encumbering the ground. But it will make a fine fire for the kitchen stove."

After a while two more men came with a big saw. "This is a fine oak," said the farmer, "and we will make it into timber for masts of ships. It grows tall, straight and strong without a flaw."

Then the great oak, which had once been a tiny acorn, was glad—glad it had kept on growing, glad it was to be of use in the world. It would be made into tall masts that would hold sails and help the boats speed over the water; it would see far-off lands and strange people. It would ride on through the suns and storms, through the moonlight and snows, over the dancing waves bearing great freight from one land to another.

So the great, strong oak—the oak which had once been a wee, tiny acorn, was glad and proud that at last, when it had done its best, it was of use in the world.

Kettles as Pontoons. The Cossacks use their cooking kettles to construct the strangest of temporary bridges. The soldiers' lances are pushed through the handles of the kettles and lashed in place to form a raft. These rafts are then moored in place across a stream and used to support a temporary bridge. These bridges will bear a very considerable weight.—The American Boy.

Wanted to Live. "Well, Tommy, are you a good boy all the time?" asked the visitor.

"Not me," replied the boy.

"And why not?"

"Cause I don't want to die young," replied Tommy.

SHORT GRAMMAR

Three little words you often see are articles—"a," "an," and "the." A noun's name of any thing. As "house," "garden," "house," or "sailing."

Adjectives tell the kind of noun. As "great," "small," "pretty," "white" or "brown."

Instead of nouns the pronouns stand. "His," "her," "face," "your," "arm," "my" hand.

Verbs tell something to be done. "To read," "count," "laugh," "sing," "jump" or "run."

How things are done the adverbs tell. As "slowly," "quickly," "ill" or "well."

Conjunctions join the words together. As men "and" women, wind "or" weather.

The preposition stands before. The "before" as "in" or "through" the door.

The interjection shows surprise. As "Oh," "how pretty!" "Ah," "how wise."

The whole are called nine parts of speech.

Which reading, writing, speaking teach.

"HUNTING THE SUPPER" GAME

Table is Set and Guests Are Invited to Sit Down, Though Nothing to Eat is Visible.

An amusing entertainment for the children in the afternoon or evening is called "Hunting the Supper." In this game the table is set and the guests are asked to sit down to it, though no sign of anything to eat is visible. Then the hostess places the end of a cord in the hand of each guest, who is told to go and hunt for his supper. The cord is wound up until the other end is reached, when a dish of something edible is revealed, or it may be a card telling what they can have. It may be fruit, sandwiches, cake, candy or what not.

All the dishes are brought to the table, when the supper begins. The winding and unwinding of the twisted cord makes lots of fun.

ENCOURAGING THE FARM BOY

Parents Are Advised to Interest Youth in Farming and Live Stock—Keep Him on Track.

In a recent issue of Farm and Fire-side a contributor advises parents in part as follows:

"Does the boy want to leave the farm? Well, whose fault is that?"

"Has he been useful? Has he ever been told that he is useful?"

"Has he an interest in the farming? Does he own any live stock? Does his father help the boy as cheerfully as he expects the boy to help him?"

"To be sure, when I was a boy I had to work hard and didn't expect any pay for it. I was expected to obey my parents. I was up in the morning to build the fires, and it was my trost-

Onions Brought \$29.56 to Otto Hoffman.

bitten fingers that unlocked the barn door at daybreak.

"But that was a long time ago. In those days there wasn't a town every five miles with moving picture shows, street cars and tempting jobs which pay real money. Things have changed."

Rising and Setting Soil.

There was a little boy who began to keep a diary. His first entry was: "Got up this morning at seven o'clock." He showed the entry to his mother, and she, horror-stricken said: "Have you been to school? Got up, indeed! Such an expression! Does the sun get up? No, it rises."

And she wrote "Rose at seven."

At last the boy wrote "Rose at seven." His place. That night the boy, before retiring, ended the entry for the day with the sentence: "Set at nine o'clock."

It.

A lady once asked a little girl of five if she had any brothers.

"Yes," said the child, "I have three brothers."

"And how many sisters, my dear?" asked the lady.

"Just one sister, and I'm it," replied the small girl.

Glad He Wasn't Twins.

Small Harold, who had just been punished for misbehavior, said: "Am I very bad, mamma?"

"Yes, Harold," she replied, "you have been a very, very bad boy."

"Well," rejoined the little fellow, after a moment's reflection, "you ought to be thankful that I ain't twins."

Not Backward.

Country School Teacher—You notice that boy who stands at the foot of his class? Well, last summer he was the brightest boy in school.

Committeeman—He is now. I notice the foot of the class is nearest the stove.—Puck.

Opera Stars.

"Let's play opera," said small Harry to his little sister. "I'll be the star."

"All right," she replied. "And I'll be the moon."

Defeat in Victory.

"Gee Aik, where'd y' git th' black eye?"

"I was chasin' that new kid next door, an' I caught 'im."—Judge.

Hard Lines.

Johnny—I got licked at school today for something I didn't do."

Ma—What was it?

Johnny—An example in arithmetic.

Oldest Woman.

Who was the oldest woman ever heard of?—Ann Tiquity.

Features of Fashion

By JULIA BOTTOMLEY



AMONG THE COATS FOR SPRING.

A candidate for favor, among the coats of spring, that needs only to be seen to provoke approving smiles, presents its plainness and its gracefulness and its modishness all at one glance. The charm of simplicity belongs to it, or, at any rate, it looks simple, but with a simplicity which attests that it has been thought out by an artist.

A material in black or a very dark color with a narrow but pronounced stripe in white gives the garment a very fine start in the good graces of fashionable women. Its lines are correct, assuring one of the two accepted silhouettes, and it is distinguished by certain original touches in its finishing. All of which goes to prove that it belongs to the smart set in the world of apparel.

A silk pocket is set in at each side. And, since it would never do for pockets to be negligible this season, they make opportunity for shaped bands, applied about the slit and a garniture

of four buttons, like those on the sleeves. There is a velvet inlay on the back of the collar.

The sailor hat and black-and-white laced boots, worn with this coat, proclaim a sense of clothes which promotes distinction for its possessor.

There are wide hats and high hats and variety enough in both sorts to insure several shapes that will be becoming to each face. But the variety is not confusing as it was a year ago. The styles are very well settled and the hats are beautiful.

Each of the hats in the group of three pictured displays some one or

flowers treated with this lacquer look as if made of fine porcelain.

A fancy detached skirt yoke of sheer material is gathered to a skirt yoke which is already full. Little shoulder capes appear on both dresses and coats.

Silver and gilt buttons, globe shaped, are especially effective as trimming for taffeta frocks.

Digging Up an Old Yarn.

The suggestion of an American paper that certain orchestral parts of Strauss' "Alpine Symphony" sent from Germany to the New York Philharmonic society, but which have not reached their destination, have been seized by the British navy as secret code in the disinterment on an old story circulated about the organist of St. Paul's cathedral just before the South African war began, the London Chronicle states. Sir George Martin was at the time in the Transvaal ex-

amining on behalf of the R. A. M. and R. C. M., and one morning the story appeared in the Press that he had been arrested at Johannesburg as a spy. In his possession were found a number of mysterious documents which none of the Boer officials could understand. Sir George's assertion that they were musical scores being ridiculed. Eventually, however, President Kruger remembered he had a granddaughter who was learning music, and the documents were submitted to her.

Old Greeks Set Hat Style.

Although, according to Sir James Linton, the bowler hat was worn by the ancient Greeks, its beauties were not discovered by Englishmen until about a century ago. Mrs. A. M. W. Striding, the biographer of Coke of Norfolk, says that it was first made fashionable by Coke's nephew, William Coke, "who decided that a hat originally designed by William Bowler, a hatter in the Borough, would suit his requirements." To the popularity of Billy Coke is generally credited the

word "Billycock," but Sir James Murray thinks otherwise. The New English dictionary traces its origin to "Bully-cooked, used 1721, probably meaning 'cooked after the fashion of the bullies.'"

Light Under Water.

Photography has discovered the depth to which the sun's rays penetrate water. Five hundred and thirty feet below the surface darkness was much the same as that on earth on a clear but moonless night.

RURAL BANKS BID FOR STATE FUNDS

HIGH INTEREST IS OFFERED BY COUNTRY BANKS FOR STATE INSURANCE FUNDS.

\$2,000,000 IS TO BE PLACED

But Few Banks of Large Cities Participate—Highest Offer Made is at 4.46 Per Cent.

Western Newspaper Union News Service.

Columbus.—Nearly \$2,000,000 of state insurance funds was awarded to about 75 banks, most of them in villages, by State Treasurer Archer at interest rates ranging from 4.35 to 4.46 per cent. This money will be withdrawn from the banks to whom it was let two years ago and deposited in those which make the highest bids. Each bank specified the sum desired. The lowest rate at which money was awarded was 4.35 per cent. The average was .96 per cent lower than the above minimum rate. Few large banks entered bids. The total amount asked was \$6,185,500. In addition to the state insurance fund about \$8,000,000 of state treasury funds were deposited with Ohio banks. Among the banks awarded money were: Commercial Bank, Savings and Trust Co., Findlay, \$50,000 at 4.65 per cent; Buckeye National Bank, Findlay, \$100,000 at 4.25 per cent; State Security Bank, Zanesville, \$50,000 at 4.46 per cent.

Half-Mill Levy Favored.

As the result of the canvass of sentiment by the Ohio Good Roads Federation conducted during the past month, it has been found, officials say, that sentiment has been crystallized in favor of the restoration of the half-mill state levy. To ask the next general assembly to restore the Hite law levy from three-tenths to half a mill is the decision of the organization rather than to submit to the voters this fall a constitutional amendment for a levy of three-quarters of a mill for 10 years.

Many considerations led to the decision by the trustees. It is recognized that there are many questions, state and national, before the people for settlement in a presidential year which naturally will interfere with discussion of the roads issue. The half-mill levy for roads will give the state an annual sum of \$3,750,000, providing the duplicate of the present amount from the levy is only about \$2,000,000, and has been found to be far from enough to care for the demands made upon the state from local communities that wish state aid in working out their road problems. The addition of \$1,750,000 annually to the state fund will mean at least twice as much for good roads in the state at large.

Supreme Court May Act.

If the Toledo Railways and Light Company persists in its contention that the public utilities commission has no legal power to instruct it to file an inventory and valuation of its property, when a rate question is pending, it will get the matter tested in the supreme court promptly. The law has been investigated by Atty. Gen. Turner, who holds it is valid and enforceable, and he so advised the utilities commission. No other corporation has raised the question, and the state would be glad to have it tested in the court at once, if the Toledo corporation wants it so tested. The Toledo Railways and Light Co. has been granted repeated extensions of time in which to report its inventories, and finally challenged the right of the commission to enforce its order. The claim was presented that there is no question of rates pending in the case.

Ohio Building Act Exposed.

Carried up on three barges the Ohio Building at the San Francisco Exposition is to be transported down the bay from its present location to a site at Burlingame, a Bay Side residential town. The Ohio Society of California on April 15 will have appropriate ceremonies marking the structure's departure. The Exposition Commission formally adjourned in the office of Governor Wilson, turning back the state over \$40,000 from the amount appropriated. It served under three governors.

Insure Public Workers.

To insure county, city, village and township employees, Franklin county will pay \$23,438 from its last tax collection into the state workers' compensation fund, according to County Auditor Valentine. This payment gives protection to all public employees in the county except election officials. The premium is 1 per cent of salaries paid. Columbus contributes \$19,189; county, \$2,260.

Rate on Tile Held Up.

Freight rates on shipments of drainage tile in all interstate shipments got a five per cent advance, but such shipments in Ohio were held up by the next 30 days at the old rate. The utilities commission, after complaint, suspended the proposed advance in the state and will hold hearings to determine if the five per cent advance leaves the rates where they would still be reasonable as provided by law. Ohio has heavy shipment of this class of freight and the five per cent advance would be a material advance.

Demand a New Depot.

Upper Sandusky business men want a new depot erected in that city by the Pennsylvania railway, and a delegation of citizens has petitioned the commission to insist that the order be issued for the construction of a depot commensurate with importance of the city. In the crowd at the hearing were James Walker, president, and G. D. Talmadge, secretary of the Commercial club; Richard Carter, C. F. Plumb, John J. Hulso, of the Post and Representative Samuel J. Black.

Pictures Still On View.

Although a few of the paintings were on exhibition at the library of Ohio State University were sent away on request, more than half of them are still on view and may be seen by the general public. These are the canvases of Davis, Dalgherty and Gisher and include the big picture which received a gold medal at the Panama-Pacific Exposition. It is estimated that at least 3,000 persons have seen the pictures to date. The duration of their stay here is not known.

Distilled Water Is Taboo.

Connection has been established with the city water mains by the various departments' houses in the State Capitol and annex, and hereafter the state employees will drink the same water as the residents of the city. Hitherto the ordinary supply has come from the artesian well in the basement of the Capitol, while the drinking supply was furnished by distilled water companies. Many years ago, before the city established its water-purification plant, there was an epidemic of typhoid.

France First With Motors.

Used Automobiles in the Field on the Day That the Great War Started.

To the French belongs the credit for the first use of motor transport in the present war, according to the Fremdenblatt, which says that at the very outbreak of hostilities the French general staff seized 500 Paris motor buses and sent them off, packed with soldiers, to the Belgian frontier, and

1,000 other motor transports similarly improvised followed next day.

As "an approximate estimate" it is stated that "the belligerent powers in the first week of the war made use of some 250,000 motor transport wagons apart from the great numbers of automobiles de luxe and touring cars that were pressed into service." Of this 250,000 motor wagons France had 90,000, Germany 70,000, England 65,000, Austria 25,000 and Russia 10,000. The total value is estimated at \$200,000,000.

Crusade is Aimed.

State Inspector of Building and Loan Associations James A. Devine today expressed his belief that the crusade on the part of his force against association officials who were pursuing improper methods is aimed at conditions existing in Cleveland, and nowhere else in the state. In that city a group of persons, who evidently want sudden riches, have been working inflation methods in founding new associations, selling stock at a premium, paying fancy commissions to stock salesmen and voting themselves munificent salaries. In other parts of the state, he explains, conditions are conservative, normal and legal. This is shown by the records of the examinations on file in his office, which prove that these associations are being well administered and are prosperous and sound.

Fearful of Precedent.

Secretary Stauffer, of the state board of agriculture, is fearful of a flood of applications for county financial aid for various pumpkin shows and like attractions, following the allowance at a recent meeting of the state board of such an application from the Ironton apple show. Though this money must be paid from county treasuries, the state agricultural board must authorize the appropriation and determine whether the attraction is a county fair. The board decided the Ironton apple show was eligible for the "county fair" class. Secretary Stauffer now fears various organizations over the state which are pumping apple or other shows of an agricultural nature will act on the precedent established in allowing aid for the Ironton show.

Physicians to be Protected.

Insurance Superintendent Frank J. Tassart issued a license to the Medical Protective Association, of Ft. Wayne, Ind., to sell protection insurance in the state to physicians, indemnifying them against loss and litigation from patients who make claims for damages. The cancellation of all licenses to companies of that character last fall left the physicians of the state unprotected, and the order barring the companies was studied with care by many legal luminaries. Hearings have been had since that time, and the rulings of a former Attorney General, on which the Insurance Commissioner has since been notified by a new ruling that permits the companies to come back into the state.

Water and Soap to Clean Glasses.

The state board of health has modified its order that soda fountain glasses be placed in boiling water or under live steam for a period of three to five minutes. The new requirement is that the glasses be washed in hot water, treated with a soap or a detergent powder. The thorough sterilization of soda fountain glasses, which was in the former order, still obtains. Soda fountain dealers protested against the order on the contention that the preserbed sterilization process caused too many glasses to break. In many cities the dealers either began the use of paper cups or increased the price of soda to ten cents. Glass manufacturers said it was injuring their business.

Blind Men Do Well.

Charles F. F. Campbell, of Columbus, made the highest grade in the state civil service examination to select a superintendent of the State School for Blind. Campbell is now secretary of the Ohio state commission for the blind. His grade was 95.12. Two blind men made the next highest grades. Robert B. Irwin, director of the Institute for Blind in Cleveland, was second, with 86.9, and J. Frank Lumb, of Columbus, a teacher in the state school for the blind, was third, with 82.56. The Board of Administration will select one of these three for the position. The salary is \$1,200 and expenses.

Not Subject to Tax.

Because it enters Cincinnati only to do interstate business and does no hauling within the state, Attorney General E. C. Turner gave as his opinion that the Louisville & Nashville railroad is not subject to the state excise tax on its right of way in Cincinnati. The opinion was given to the State Tax Commission.

January Fires Total 417.

State Fire Marshal Buckley's report for January, made public, shows there were 417 fires in Ohio, causing a loss of \$399,222. Only 350 were recorded in January, 1915. Defective flues were responsible for 52 fires, woodwork in contact with hot pipes, 42; matches, 37; sparks, 27; thawing water pipes, 8, and incendiary, 7.

Fatalities on Increase.

Railroad accidents were fatal to 65 persons in Ohio during February, as compared with 50 the same month last year, according to a report issued by the public utilities commission. Steam road accidents were responsible for 59 deaths and interurban roads for six.

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IS REPUBLICAN YEAR

Return to Good Government Practically Assured.

That the People Are Tired of the Inefficient Wilson Administration Has Been Shown by Many Recent Events.

Five years in succession Massachusetts elected Democratic governors. This year Samuel McCall, a Republican of the most thoroughgoing type, defeated the popular Democrats who were seeking re-election. The Republican majority in the legislature was increased.

In New York the only state-wide tests of party strength came in the election of the lower house of the state legislature, the senate holding over, and in the choice of three congressmen to fill vacancies. The Republican majority in the legislature was made still more overwhelming. All three congressional seats elected Republicans in one district a seat was gained.

New Jersey elected part of the state legislature. The Republicans made gains in the president's own state and gave new proof of their ability to carry it against his party or even, it is now generally concluded, against Mr. Wilson himself.

Maryland went Democratic but by a very narrow plurality. It may be less than 2,000. There were notable Republican gains in all parts of the state. The Democratic plurality was about seven times as large last year as it was on Tuesday.

Similar conditions were shown in Kentucky. That state went Democratic last year by 20,000 to 40,000 plurality for different candidates. Now the Democratic margin is small, perhaps less than one-tenth as much as it was a year ago.

In Ohio the Republicans elected the mayors of nearly three times as many cities as went Democratic. In New York and Pennsylvania also the results of municipal elections were very favorable to the Republican party. It was the same in Connecticut.

Altogether the tests of public sentiment made in 1915 are extremely ominous for the Democratic party next year. Only a swift and complete change in the feeling of the people could give President Wilson a real chance for a second term and nothing indicates that any such shifting of the political weather-vane will take place.

Timely Repeat.

The repeal of the legislation making sugar free after May 1 is the proper thing to do for the country in view of the government's need of revenue.</